

SR/DOB/58/1172

11 June 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Projects Review Officer, PP Staff

ATTENTION: []

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Review of Byelorussian Operations

Transmitted herewith is a Review of Byelorussian Operations
as prepared by [] formerly of this Branch and
Senior Case Officer of Byelorussian projects.

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AC/SR/DOB

Attachment:
Memo to C/SR and Review

Distribution:
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SOURCE METHOD EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

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10 June 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, SR/DOB

SUBJECT : Proposal of a PP Effort To Be Directed Against
the MIKHAILOV COMMITTEE and Soviet Propaganda
Generally.

1. At a personal meeting with AECAMBISTA/11 on 4 June 1958, in New York City, the undersigned presented for discussion a possible PP effort against the MIKHAILOV COMMITTEE and its Return to the Homeland campaign. The presentation was made not only to ascertain the merits of the proposal but also to arouse interest in a directed PP effort.

2. The undersigned stated to AECAMBISTA/11 that perhaps our present tactic of awaiting an offensive move from the Soviets and then replying with a defensive countering move is passé and sterile as to positive PP gain. Further, that a slight attempt by ourselves at an offensive might revitalize the emigration PP and divert it from a "yes you are, no I'm not, yes you are" routine of accusations and counter-accusation. AECAMBISTA/11 was of the opinion that such an offensive would be desirable. The undersigned then outlined to AECAMBISTA/11 his idea of a letter from the homeland to the editor of the BATAVSHCHINA. AECAMBISTA/11 was immediately interested in the possibility and began to sketch out variations on the theme. He was cautioned by the undersigned that this was merely "off the top of the head" talking and that AECAMBISTA/11 should initiate no action until so directed by the undersigned, except to ascertain from AECAMBISTA/4 whether he has any objection to such a play.

3. The play would be, generally, that of having a letter mailed from Byelorussia or Poland containing an innocuous message or even a deprecatory tirade against the BATAVSHCHINA, to the editorial offices of the BATAVSHCHINA. The letter itself would be destroyed but the envelope with its postal markings and stamps would be retained to be coupled with a letter to be written by AECAMBISTA/11 and both to be reproduced in the pages of the BATAVSHCHINA.

4. The letter to be written by AECAMBISTA/11 will be purportedly from a neighbor of a re-defector stating something to the effect that a good friend and neighbor recently returned from the U.S., Canada, South America, etc., had lived at home for a short time but now "has been sent to the east," and exhorting other defectors not to be fooled into believing that the Soviets have changed. AECAMBISTA/11

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-2-

has been instructed to be alert for any news concerning the death of a re-defector regardless for what cause. Such an event would be opportune as it would preclude the Soviets from producing a person capable of denying having been sent "east" and further, if the letter were to be about a person since dead, it would add credence to the letter since many know the "reward" for defection and would see a Soviet hand in the death.

5. Such a letter would have an effect upon the emigration and if it were repeated in other emigre papers with which we have a working relationship, should produce an unfavorable reaction to the blandishments of the MIKHAILOV COMMITTEE.

6. Such a letter campaign might be played with a variation and made into a "letter from the homeland" series. Such a play is envisioned by the undersigned in this manner -- letters containing contemporary "inside" information written in a "homespun" format could be mailed from various parts of the world to the editorial offices of emigre newspapers. These letters could be timed to be mailed during the stay or shortly after the departure of a Soviet merchant marine vessel from that port. Such letters, mailed to as many emigre newspapers as possible, should produce the following:

a. Interest among emigres as to the writer and the contents of the letter;

b. Interest among the editors since it is "new" material;

c. Interest among the Soviets, the KGB, the Soviet Merchant Marine, etc., as to the writer and method of transmission to the West.

7. Such a play should have no adverse effects upon the emigration newspapers since they will be in receipt of a letter mailed legally and authentically from some port city in the world and can produce the letter for inspection by anyone. Only in the case of the PRAVDA, IZVESTIYA or other newspapers with which we have a working relationship will the editors be witting and in that case only insofar as the anti-Mikhailov letters are concerned. All other editors will have no knowledge of the scheme other than the letters which they will receive.

8. Soviet bloc postal censorship is in effect today, therefore there is no reason to assume that controls would become any tighter as a result of these letters. Further, these letters mailed from many parts of the world outside of the Soviet bloc should not cause stricter enforcement of anything by the Soviets except the freedom of movement of their merchant marine sailors in foreign ports, which may be a tangent benefit.

9. If the above is of interest, the undersigned should appreciate a meeting with C/SR/PP for discussion and guidance.

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